

Moran Supports Fort Riley Construction Projects

Legislation Improves Military Pay and Improves Family Benefits

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced his support for House approval of the annual policy and funding blueprint for the Department of Defense. H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year (FY) 2010, authorizes more than \$162 million for military construction projects at Fort Riley and enhances benefits for military personnel, families and retirees.

"At Fort Riley, it is imperative that we have the best facilities and resources available for soldiers' training and for their families' quality of life," Moran said. "Not only does this legislation authorize funding for several construction projects at Fort Riley, it also improves military pay, health insurance and family benefits. Now, more than ever, it is important to give back to military personnel who are sacrificing so much on our behalf."

The legislation passed today by the House approves six Fort Riley construction projects. Funding legislation for these projects will be considered by Congress later this year. Authorized projects include:

- Battalion Complex - \$59 million
- Brigade Complex - \$49 million
- Advanced Waste Water Treatment Plant - \$38 million
- Igloo Storage - \$7.2 million
- Land Vehicle Fueling Facility - \$3.7 million
- Training Aids Center - \$15.5 million

This legislation also includes benefits for military personnel, families and retirees:

- Authorizes a pay raise of 3.4% for service members.
- Extends TRICARE eligibility to reserve members so they can receive full TRICARE coverage 180 days before they go on active duty. Previously, reserve members were only eligible 90 days.
- Provides all disabled military retirees with less than 20 years service their full military retirement pay and veterans' disability compensation, without offset, for one year.
- Authorizes \$50 million for Impact Aid funding to assist local education agencies providing support to military children, with an additional \$15 million for those heavily impacted by force structure changes and BRAC.
- Establishes an internship pilot program for military spouses to obtain employment with federal agencies in order to provide them with opportunities in careers that are portable as they move from station to station.

The 2010 National Defense Authorization Act now awaits action by the U.S. Senate. Moran is a senior member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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